

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 173041

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, GW, UR, UK, US

SUBJECT: MBFR DISCUSSION BETWEEN SECRETARY AND OWEN

1. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION ON MBFR DURING US-UK BILATERAL MEETINGS AT THE DEPARTMENT, JULY 23, 1977, BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID IT WAS THEIR IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS NOTHING "TERRIBLY NEW" IN THE LATEST GERMAN PROPOSAL ON MBFR.

2. THE SECRETARY DID NOT AGREE. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT, THE SECRETARY SAID WE BELIEVE THE GERMAN PROPOSAL IS NEW AND
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DOES COME TO GRIPS WITH PHASE ONE AND TWO. HE SAID SCHMIDT AGREED WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT WE CAN NO LONGER AWAIT PROGRESS IN SALT BEFORE MOVING AHEAD WITH MBFR BUT THAT MBFR MUST GO FORWARD ON ITS OWN MERITS. THIS, THE SECRETARY SAID, IS A SHIFT FROM THE PREVIOUS GERMAN POSITION THAT PROGRESS COULD ONLY COME ON MBFR AFTER SALT.

3. THE SECRETARY SAID THE GERMANS ARE NOW COMPLETING THEIR STAFF WORK ON THEIR PROPOSAL. (HE TOLD OWEN WE WOULD PROVIDE HIM LATER ON IN THE DAY SUCH DETAILS AS WE HAVE ON

THE GERMAN PLAN AS DISCUSSED DURING THE SCHMIDT VISIT.) THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE WESTERN DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL HAD BEEN PRESENTED IN VIENNA BUT WE HAD NOT AS YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE.

4. THE SECRETARY SAID SCHMIDT WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OCCASION OF A BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN TO PRESENT THE NEW MBFR PROPOSAL TO THE SOVIETS. THE SECRETARY SAID WE THOUGHT IT WAS GOOD THAT THE GERMANS WANTED TO TAKE THE LEAD.

5. OWEN SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE SHIFT IN THE GERMAN POSITION AND HAD NO OBJECTION TO SCHMIDT PRESENTING IT TO BREZHNEV. IN FACT, HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT THE GERMANS WANTED TO TAKE THE LEAD AND BELIEVED THEY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. HOWEVER, OWEN SAID, IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THERE BE EARLY TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR BEFORE HE AND PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN VISITED BONN ON SEPTEMBER 19 FOR THEIR REGULAR BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THE GERMANS. THE SECRETARY AGREED. VANCE

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